

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Zhu for extending the courtesy of an interview with Applicants' representative Bryan Clark on March 5, 2009. Discussed during the interview were the rejections set forth in the October 9, 2008 Final Office Action in view of proposed claim amendments submitted to the Examiner, and particularly proposed claims 1 and 21. While no agreement was reached, Examiner Zhu indicated that he would reconsider the outstanding rejections in view of the proposed amendments. Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the proposed claim amendments presented in advance of the interview. Specifically, claims 1 and 21 have been amended to include the limitations previously appearing in claims 8 and 9. Claims 8 and 9 have been cancelled. Claims 15-18, which were previously withdrawn, have also been cancelled, although Applicants reserve the right to seek protection of this subject matter in a divisional application. Thus, claims 1-7, 10-14 and 21 are currently pending.

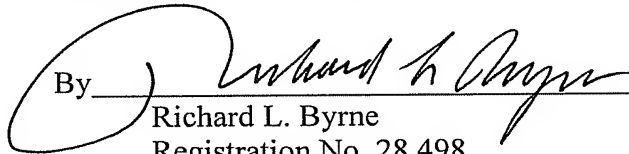
Claims 1-4, 12 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,960,584 to Brown. In view of the foregoing amendments, and particularly the incorporation of the limitations previously appearing in claims 8 and 9 into claims 1 and 21, Applicants submit that this rejection is now moot.

Claims 5-11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for obviousness over Brown. Applicants respectfully submit that Brown fails to teach, disclose or suggest the features of the invention now claimed in independent claims 1 and 21. Moreover, Brown fails to provide any motivation or other rationale that would lead one skilled in the art to arrive at the invention of claims 1 and 21. Because each of claims 2-7 and 10-14 depend from claim 1, these claims are also patentable over Brown. Consequently, Applicants request this rejection be withdrawn.

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Applicants submit that the pending claims are patentable over the cited documents of record and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and allowance of pending claims 1-7, 10-14 and 21 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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